We are
Park Heights
Celebrating Park Heights Pride

LIVING, LEARNING
AND LOVING

Park Heights Renaissance
Annual Report
2018
Introduction

Since 2007, Park Heights Renaissance has had the responsibility to shepherd change required by the Park Heights Master Plan. While in past annual reports we have emphasized progress toward that change, this year we will recognize some of the people responsible for that change, their passion, partnerships and prospects for the future. This report reflects a community that aspires to be one of living, learning and loving.

Tiffany Royster, Chair
Marcus Pollock, Executive Director
In TRIBUTE

We dedicate our work this year to the late Oscar Cobbs, Chairman of Park Heights Renaissance, Inc.

Mr. Cobbs could boast many accomplishments, but the one he was most proud of was the work to build the adjacent tot lot for the children of his neighborhood. He spent his life working to transform Park Heights to all that it could be. He defined his life through his leadership, hard work and community service. His work represents the best in all of us. May he rest in peace.
Living PEACE
Violence Prevention

Safe Streets celebrated more than a year without a homicide. One of the best measures of prevention is to connect youth to services that promote positive growth and development. To this end, last year, Safe Streets made 1,272 service referrals including employment, mental health, housing and behavioral health. PHR will continue to focus on employment opportunity including links to workforce development and training in Park Heights.
The Clean and Green Team provides sanitation, and maintenance of green space in Park Heights while creating a workforce pipeline into which residents can go to develop career building skills.

This year, LifeBridge Health provided financial support to the Team that resulted in more than 400 service calls to maintain vacant land, remove debris and cut grass working in partnership with the Department of Public Works and community volunteers.
Lots ALIVE Sculpture Gardens

Baltimore Office of Sustainability’s Green Network, in partnership with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, and Park Heights Renaissance, co-sponsored Lots Alive Outdoor Sculpture Program. Seven projects were created by local artists, and installed in the Park Heights Avenue corridor.
Living in the NEIGHBORHOOD

Our neighbors have adopted lots to identify and beautify their neighborhood. We will continue this year to promote vacant lot adoption for our neighborhoods.
As the founder of Langston Hughes Business Development and Community Center, George Mitchell demonstrates his love for Park Heights each day. The Center creates a loving environment for children, and workforce opportunity for adults, and feeds families. The Center provided more than 270,000 pounds of food through its pantry last year.
Housing opportunities are increasing in Park Heights. Affordable housing units, both for sale and rental, will grow in the coming years as the supply improves because of rehabilitated and new units currently being developed. We provided homeownership counseling and foreclosure prevention counseling to more than 350 families in 2018.
Local resolve to improve Park Heights has spawned new development plans and activity. From Park Circle redevelopment, to Renaissance Row multi-family project, to efforts to redevelop 17 acres for major development, to Sinai/Lifebridge's plan to consolidate its outpatient facilities, the next few years will see monumental growth for Park Heights.
RENAISSANCE ROW

Plans are being implemented to build 84 units of multi-family housing in Central Park Heights.
MAJOR Redevelopment

Seventeen acres have been offered for redevelopment in Park Heights, the first major development of for sale and rental housing in nearly a generation. This year will likely be devoted to community engagement and planning for the project.
LEARNING in Park Heights

Education is the seed to success.

Our parents want their children to succeed. We will stimulate learning of our students from “cradle to careers”, using community assets, volunteers, and modern tools and technology.
Community Schools provide advocacy for community members, students and families, assists students directly with information and referral services, and create partnerships to address the academic, social and other needs of students within the school community.

LEARNING in the 21st Century

We are dedicated to extending the learning of our children through partnerships that allow our students to practice what they learn in the community. We are proud of the opening of one of two 21st Century Schools in Park Heights. Pimlico Elementary Middle School reopened in September of 2018 as a project-based learning school; and Arlington Elementary and Middle School is set to open as a 21st Century School in September of 2019.
HOME INSTRUCTION
for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY)

HIPPY is an accredited, evidenced based early learning program that provides support to parents in their critical role as their child’s first and most influential teachers. Pediatricians say that children are never too young to be introduced to the love of learning. HIPPY employs Park Heights adults and trains them as home visitors who work closely with parents/caregivers of three, four and five year old youngsters.
For Latonya Everette, learning in Park Heights means freedom. Everyday, her daughters must read one book, in the summer... two. The absence of a library did not stop her from building one in her home. “Nevertheless, the need to build a library in Park Heights is vital, so children can have their freedom card otherwise known as a library card”
We offer the Park Heights community a trauma-informed school to improve the social and intellectual development of children who are faced with adversity every day. We build resiliency by connecting them with trusted, responsive adults who build core skills and education, and work to reduce childhood stress, this includes abuse; family dysfunction, racism, and poverty. Oasis is currently being piloted as an after-school program at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary and Middle School, where middle school Oasis scholars meet daily with our PHR staff and partners. The Oasis model was built by the PHR Trauma Task Force, a learning community comprised of local law enforcement, educators, residents and community agencies.
Through the Baltimore City Youth Fund, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is spearheading Girls Rise, (a project-based leadership development program in Park Heights. The program boasts robotics education, health and wellness through step dance, a camping expedition at Girl Scouts Camp Conowingo, and community service learning opportunities for girls. The fund provides much-needed educational supplies and staff for Park Heights schools.)
LEARNING STEAM

We live in a technological world. To prepare our students for careers, we offer activities concentrated in science, technology, engineering arts, and math. This year, we will work to link our students with STEAM learning opportunities in our community.
Our learning community extends to Morgan State University, where service learning is used to address the challenges of Park Heights. This unique partnership was inaugurated by a “mobile think tank” and development of student-led and professor-supported solutions in education, business, technology, architecture, social work and community health.
LOVING thy Neighbor

Each year, we celebrate the Jewish tradition of Chametz, donating food and burning fermented food that contains wheat, barley, oats and spelt.
"After traveling around the world, and experiencing many beautiful cultures, I decided to move back to Park Heights because I did not feel the warmth of the community as I do in Park Heights."

Linwood Cole
LOVING our Pimlico

The Preakness has been hosted by the Pimlico Race Track for nearly a 150 years. The future of this world-class event and Pimlico is the subject of much debate coming from a recent report that outlines the cost of creating a 365 day a year venue. Redeveloping Pimlico could create an economic engine that would provide workforce and economic opportunity for Park Heights and beyond.
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